

Country profile 2026: Slovakia

Introduction

According to the [Digital Decade 2025: Country reports](#), Slovakia has notable growth in mobile and fixed infrastructure while continuing to lag behind European Union averages in business digitalisation and overall infrastructure coverage. Slovakia's ICT sector contributed 4.5% to its Gross Value Added in 2022, a figure that remains below the EU average of 5.5%. While connectivity has improved, with 5G coverage reaching approximately 88% of populated areas, expansion into rural regions remains a challenge. Similarly, Very High-Capacity Network (VHCN) coverage and Fibre-to-the-Premises (FTTP) rollout, at 73% and 68% respectively, still trail EU targets. On the human capital front, 51% of the population possesses at least basic digital skills, which is below the EU average of 55.6%. However, a significant strength lies in the younger demographic, where 87% of those aged 16–24 demonstrate basic digital proficiency.

According to the [State of the Digital Decade Eurobarometer 2025](#), public sentiment shows strong support for protecting minors from cyberbullying: 88% of citizens want authorities to prioritise this protection, and for measures against online disinformation: 84% support them. Slovakia has a proactive policy framework, including the "National Broadband Plan" to ensure 1 Gbps connectivity for socio-economic drivers by 2030 and the "National Digital Skills Strategy and Action Plan 2023-2026". Furthermore, the "National Cybersecurity Strategy (2026-2030)" aims to bolster national resilience by enhancing incident response and vulnerability assessments across the public and private sectors.

BIK policies

Policy frameworks

Policy frameworks describe the overarching goals that shape policies for a better internet for kids.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Policy priority		X		
Integrated policy	X			
Influence of the BIK+ strategy		X		
Recognition of children's rights			X	

Table 1: Policy frameworks - Slovakia

- **This topic is an important and emerging policy priority**, partially covered in national/regional laws, regulations and policies.
- **There is one main overarching policy framework** that addresses the topic of children and the digital environment.
- **The BIK+ strategy is an important influence on policy development** (that is, it informs and guides national policies even if they do not directly refer to BIK+).
- Children's rights in the digital environment **are implied rather than explicitly recognised in policies**.

Key national policy developments include:

- High-Level Roundtable Initiative on Online Child Protection in the AI Era: Under the leadership of State Secretary Radoslav Štefánek, High Representative of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Artificial Intelligence, Slovakia established a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism through high-level roundtables addressing child protection in AI-driven digital environments.
- Outcomes include a **Joint Statement** with concrete commitments, legal analysis mapping legislative gaps, and an action framework with institutional responsibilities and December 2025 deadlines covering digital safety education, age verification solutions, and public awareness campaigns.
- In 2019, the Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family adopted the **National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital**

Environment. This is the overarching framework for BIK-related policies and focuses on three areas: prevention, intervention, and aftercare.

- A new, dedicated Law on the Protection of Children in the Online Space, including age limits for social networking, is **under consideration**.

Policy design

Policy design asks whether evidence and research support BIK-related policies and whether systems are in place for monitoring and evaluating those policies.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Regular data collection	X			
Data on risks, harms, well-being	X			
Information systems		X		
National research fund			X	
Monitoring and evaluation	X			

Table 2: Policy design - Slovakia

- **There is a regular nationally representative survey specifically focused on children’s digital activity.**
- **Regular (e.g., annual or bi-annual) surveys include measures of children’s experiences of risks, harms and digital well-being.**
- **Information is regularly gathered to inform policies** on children and the digital environment.
- **There are occasional special initiatives** to gather evidence about children and the digital environment.
- **Policies undergo systematic and regular monitoring and evaluation** to assess the effectiveness of actions in different contexts.

Key national research studies:

- The Ministry of Labour, Social Affairs and Family of the Slovak Republic, through the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of

Violence against Children, commissions annual research on online issues, conducted by researchers specialising in children's experiences and behaviours in the digital environment.

- Slovakia participates in the [EU Kids Online project](#) and collected data throughout 2025.
- The [Slovak Centre of Scientific and Technical Information \(CVTI SR\)](#) conducts regular research on internet use and virtual threats among school youth. These studies provide valuable data for national policymaking. Recent reports include: [Internet Use and Associated Risks Among Primary and Secondary School Students \(2024\)](#) and [Bullying and Cyberbullying in Primary and Secondary Schools \(2023\)](#).
- A specific monitoring system is in place for the area of children and the digital environment. According to the resolution of the Government of the Slovak Republic, the relevant ministries and the Director of the National Security Authority are required to submit to the [National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children](#) reports on the fulfilment of tasks arising from the [Action Plan for the National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment for the period 2024 – 2025](#).

Policy governance

Policy governance examines how policies are coordinated at the governmental level, whether other implementation bodies are involved in their delivery and coordination.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Lead ministry for policy development	X			
National coordination body	X			
National action plan or strategy	X			

Table 3: Policy governance - Slovakia

- **One central body is officially mandated to lead and develop policies, guidelines, and programmes** relating to children and the digital environment, consulting with other departments as needed.
- **A clearly defined, formal coordination mechanism exists** (e.g., task force, steering committee) with a clear mandate.
- **There is a defined national action plan on children and the digital environment** with accountabilities such as defined timelines, assigned responsibilities or key performance indicators (KPIs).

Stakeholder involvement

Stakeholder involvement enquires how different stakeholders can participate in policy development.

	High	Medium	Low	Not present
Stakeholder forum	X			
Public consultation on BIK topics		X		
Youth involvement in policy	X			

Table 4: Stakeholder involvement - Slovakia

- **A formal, designated multi-stakeholder forum is in place** that consistently engages all relevant stakeholder groups.
- **The public is consulted during the development of new BIK policies.** While engagement is structured and meaningful, it is event-driven and does not occur outside of major policy formulation efforts.
- **Children are actively involved in the design of policies** related to their participation in the digital environment. There are specially designed structures in place for this purpose.

Stakeholder mechanisms

- Slovakia has an inter-ministerial working group on the [National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment](#), which is led by

the National Coordination Centre for Addressing Violence against Children (NKS).

- The NKS emphasises a participatory approach in policy-making. This method actively involves young people, particularly in discussions surrounding children’s digital activities. The goal is to engage children directly in designing policies and strategies that affect their lives. This initiative has been an integral part of the [National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment](#), in which children from various regions of Slovakia have actively participated in developing the strategy through in-person participatory meetings.
- In 2025, the [National Strategy for the Protection of Children in the Digital Environment](#) is scheduled for redesign. There is a plan to revisit the regions to gather firsthand insights from children on what is important to them in online protection.

BIK+ actions

Pillar 1 – Safe digital experiences

Actions to promote a safe, age-appropriate digital environment that respects children’s best interests.

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not present
Content rating systems for online/video games	X			
DSC measures protection of minors	X			
DSC-SIC working relationship	X			
Definition of harmful online content			X	
Complaints handling mechanism	X			
Intimate image abuse laws	X			
Cyberbullying laws	X			
Age verification requirements			X	
Digital wallet for minors	X			
EU harmonised age verification		X		
Laws on online marketing	X			
Protecting mental health and well-being		X		

Table 5: Safe digital experiences - Slovakia

Implementing EU laws

- Decree No. 78/2023 Coll. of the Ministry of Culture of the Slovak Republic on Accepted Rating Systems, adopted on 14 March 2023 and entering into force on 1 April 2023, provides the binding legal framework

governing the classification and content rating of video and online games. Under Section 1 of the Decree, the Pan European Game Information (PEGI) system is recognised as an accepted content rating system within the territory of the Slovak Republic.

- In the supervisory area, the [Council for Media Services \(CMS\)](#) opened a legal proceeding using a combination of DSA and AVMSD legislation against a video-sharing platform which distributed highly toxic and potentially illegal videos without any age verification measures.
- Regarding the enforcement of DSA article 28 Guidelines, the CMS is preparing, in coordination with EBDS, a practical method for in-depth supervision of any given online platform. The method should be applied at the beginning of 2026 on the first supervisions and legal proceedings.
- Additionally, the CMS has made progress in mapping Slovak intermediary services, which will be covered by the DSA. This general list is currently being revisited and enlarged to cover the specific category of pornographic platforms.

Addressing online harms

- Non-consensual sharing of intimate images is covered under § 368 (Production of child pornography) and § 369 (Distribution of child pornography) of the [Criminal Code](#) (though it is irrelevant whether the sharing of intimate photos took place without consent or out of revenge).
- National laws in place to protect children and young people from cyberbullying include the application of § 360b (Dangerous electronic harassment) of the Criminal Code.

Age assurance

- In the area of age verification, the CMS has performed an analysis of commercial age assurance solutions available in the Slovak market, assessing multiple applicable solutions. The CMS is also in regular contact with the Slovak Ministry of the Interior regarding the EU Digital Wallet.

- In Slovakia, an electronic ID card (eID) with a chip and NFC is issued automatically from the age of 15. The EUDI Wallet is initialised via the eID; therefore, it is also available to minors 15 or older. This is not merely a plan but an existing reality, although the functionalities are being rolled out gradually. For the time being, this is a Slovak solution that will be aligned with the EUDI Wallet before summer 2026, and it applies to a scenario where two individuals are physically present together. Remote age-verification scenarios are still under development.
- Age verification without sharing additional information — In situations where it is necessary to verify that a person is over 18 (e.g., entry to bars, alcohol sales, etc.) or, alternatively, over 65 (e.g., eligibility for a discount), it will be possible to share only confirmation of the relevant **age threshold and a photograph** (available from **24 November 2025**).

Supporting digital well-being

- The Ministry of Health of the Slovak Republic (MoH) launched the **Slovak website** of the government's Council for Mental Health, which will include an educational section on mental health, providing basic information about mental health, links to an existing support map, as well as organisations active in the field of mental health with direct links to their websites.
- The MoH, through the Government Council for Mental Health (RVDZ), prepared the document "**Recommendations for the healthy use of screen media in children and adolescents, Slovakia 2025**".
- The Research Institute of Child Psychology and Pathopsychology (under the Ministry of Education) launched a national project titled "**Systemic Support of Mental Health and Prevention of Children, Pupils, and Students**". This programme, implemented through the Counselling and Prevention System, focuses on creating and disseminating prevention tools and education. The programme specifically targets the prevention of current problems such as cyberbullying, drug abuse, and eating disorders and includes an online platform that provides verified prevention programmes, methodologies, and materials related to mental health and risk behaviour prevention.

- The **Advertising Council** and its Code of Ethics for Advertising Practice (Etický kódex reklamnej praxe) aim to codify the ethical principles of advertising practice in Slovakia and thereby help ensure that advertising in the Slovak Republic serves advertisers and consumers as effectively as possible and meets the ethical standards for advertising. The Advertising Council is listed as a self-regulatory body in the Council for Media Services register as of September 21, 2023.
- Additionally, the self-regulation of influencer-based marketing and online commercial content on digital platforms is guided by the **Code of Influencer Marketing** (Kódex influencer marketingu), introduced in 2022.

Pillar 2 – Digital empowerment

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not present
Teaching online safety	X			
Digital skills training	X			
Policies on digital use in schools	X			
Adequate teacher training	X			
Non-formal online safety education		X		
Critical media literacy	X			
Creative digital skills	X			
Supports for parents	X			

Table 6: Digital empowerment – Slovakia

Digital empowerment in formal education

- In April 2024, the Ministry of Education, Research, Development and Youth of the Slovak Republic presented a **framework for regulating mobile phones and similar devices in primary schools**. This is regulated by **Act No. 245/2008 Coll.**, which entered into force on 1 January 2025. In primary schools, in the first to third grades, it completely bans the

use of mobile phones. In grades four to nine, the use of mobile phones is permitted if required by the state educational programme or by the teacher's decision. The prohibition does not apply to students with disabilities who use a means of communication for purposes related to their disability.

- A new [Directive No. 1/2025 \(Smernica fč. 1/2025\)](#) was issued in 2025, replacing the previous Directive No. 36 /2018 on the Prevention and Resolution of Bullying Among Children and Students in Schools and Educational Institutions. Directive No. 7/2025 [offers expanded definitions](#) and categorises bullying into four specific types: physical, verbal, psychological, and emotional. It also provides stricter protocols for "dangerous electronic harassment" and "stalking", aligning with the new mobile phone ban in schools.

Digital empowerment and lifelong learning

- The [Media Literacy+ \(Mediálna gramotnosť+\)](#) programme is Slovakia's official national platform for unifying and coordinating the country's media literacy efforts. Launched in 2023 by the Council for Media Services (RpMS), it serves as a central hub where government institutions, academic experts, and non-profit organisations collaborate to build a more resilient and critical-thinking society.
- In 2025, Slovakia joined the Czech project [Media Education Weeks](#) for the first time. The initiative connects schools, libraries, and NGOs to support media literacy across society. Almost 30 Slovak libraries and many schools took part, organising discussions, workshops, and activities focused on recognising manipulation and fake news, and on understanding how the media work. The project also included an online package of Slovak and Czech educational materials and a special webinar for teachers called "How to create school media – from magazines and radio to podcasts and Instagram".
- The Council for Media Services also coordinates [Slovakia's participation](#) in UNESCO's Global Media and Information Literacy Week, which the country is taking part in for the fourth time. The 2025 edition, with the theme "The Power of Thinking in the Age of Artificial Intelligence",

focuses on how AI affects learning, decision-making, and the mental well-being of young people.

- In relation to support for parents, the [National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children](#) ran a pilot in which schools hosted informal meetings with parents to raise awareness about digital-age parenting and to support active mediation approaches for more proactive parenting.

Pillar 3 – Active participation, respecting children’s rights

	In place	In development	Other activity	Not present
Promoting civic engagement	X			
Promoting children’s rights	X			
Child-friendly policy documents	X			
Addressing digital inequalities	X			
Positive digital content	X			

Table 7: Active participation, respecting rights - Slovakia

Active participation

- The [National Project DiTEdu](#) conducts various outreach and public awareness activities to promote cybersecurity and online safety. Children’s rights, including those related to the digital space, are discussed during participatory meetings organised by the National Coordination Centre for Resolving the Issues of Violence against Children. These are informal and irregular activities.
- The [Digital Youth Forum \(DYF\)](#), organised by the National Coordination Centre (NKS), is inspired by a successful model from a neighbouring country and aims to engage high school students in Slovakia in fostering safe, creative, and positive use of digital technologies. [Events](#) feature a rich mix of lectures, interactive discussions, technological workshops,

and entertainment, including music and good food, to create a comprehensive educational experience.

Addressing digital inequalities

- Slovakia introduced a **social voucher scheme** to support pupils from vulnerable backgrounds in subscribing to or retaining broadband at a fixed location with download speeds of at least 30 Mbps. The vouchers cover up to 100% of the monthly fee for 24 months, as well as the setup costs, including equipment.
- The measure specifically targets pupils with special educational needs and/or in material need, a demographic group that has been significantly affected by the economic downturn. By providing social vouchers, eligible pupils can access suitable broadband services necessary for online learning and social interaction, thereby supporting their educational needs and addressing both immediate and long-term social concerns. This approach reflects a commitment to mitigating the impact of a challenging economic situation on access to educational services and on maintaining an adequate level of digital literacy.

Best practices

Example 1

High-Level Roundtable Initiative on Online Child Protection in the AI Era

Under the leadership of State Secretary Radoslav Štefánek, High Representative of the Government of the Slovak Republic for Artificial Intelligence, Slovakia established a multi-stakeholder coordination mechanism through [high-level roundtables](#) addressing child protection in AI-driven digital environments.

Key features include its capacity to mobilise diverse institutional actors, including the Police Force, Office for Personal Data Protection, Commissioner for Children, General Prosecutor's Office, Slovak Bar Association, Council for Media Services, Ministry of Education, Ministry of Justice, Ministry of Interior, National Coordination Centre for Addressing Violence Against Children, the Association of Mobile Operators and other relevant actors.

Among its outcomes is a [Joint Statement](#) with concrete commitments, legal analysis mapping legislative gaps, and an action framework with institutional responsibilities and December 2025 deadlines covering digital safety education, age verification solutions, and public awareness campaigns.

Example 2

The Digital Coalition

The [Digital Coalition](#) is a national initiative, launched by the European Commission within the framework of the Digital Skills and Jobs Coalition policy. Its mission is to improve digital skills in Slovakia.

In 2025, the Ministry of Investments, Regional Development and Informatisation of the Slovak Republic (MIRRI SR) financially supported the [Digital Coalition's grant call](#) (DK_00122025) to prevent the spread of disinformation, combat identity abuse, and address false news online.

The call, with a total allocation of €200,000, targeted activities focused on raising awareness of disinformation campaigns, media and digital literacy education, the development of critical thinking, and building trust in quality

journalism. Eligible applicants included NGOs, schools, research institutions, and other non-profit entities operating in Slovakia.

The initiative received an overwhelming response - 70 applications requesting nearly €1.4 million in total funding, demonstrating strong societal demand for systematic approaches to combating disinformation. Following expert evaluation, 8 projects were selected for funding, with approved grants totalling €203,120. All projects must be completed by 31 March 2026.

Example 3

digiQ

DigiQ, as part of the SIC consortium, produced a series of children's stories featuring *Dáša Digitálna* (Dasha Digital). Written and illustrated by the ifvoun-house psychologist, it offers an engaging, age-appropriate approach to early online-safety prevention. Each story introduces key digital-literacy concepts through playful narratives that support meaningful conversations between children and adults. *Dáša Digitálna* and *Granny Wifina's Muffins* teach children about digital footprints and accountability in an accessible way. *Dáša Digitálna* and *the Computer Illness* helps young readers recognise harmful links, fake apps, and deceptive emails, reinforcing basic digital skills. *Dáša Digitálna* and *the Trap for Friends* highlights the importance of emotional connection, balancing online and offline activities, and recognising signs of excessive gaming.

The newest story, "*Dáša Digitálna* and *the Singing Ad-Fog*", introduces children to the influence of advertising, consumer pressure, and manipulative digital persuasion, illustrated by a "fog" of catchy ads that lure children into impulsive behaviour. Together, these stories foster early critical thinking, strengthen prevention efforts, and build safer digital habits from preschool onward. The stories have been printed and distributed at public events and festivals, as well as in venues for the elderly. Reading these to young children fosters intergenerational learning, strengthens offline connections, and provides information about online risks.

BIK+ index 2026: Slovakia

The BIK+ index has been developed to provide an aggregated at-a-glance overview of the levels of implementation across the two dimensions, BIK policies and BIK+ actions, in Slovakia compared to the EU27+2 average. Values are shown in per cent.

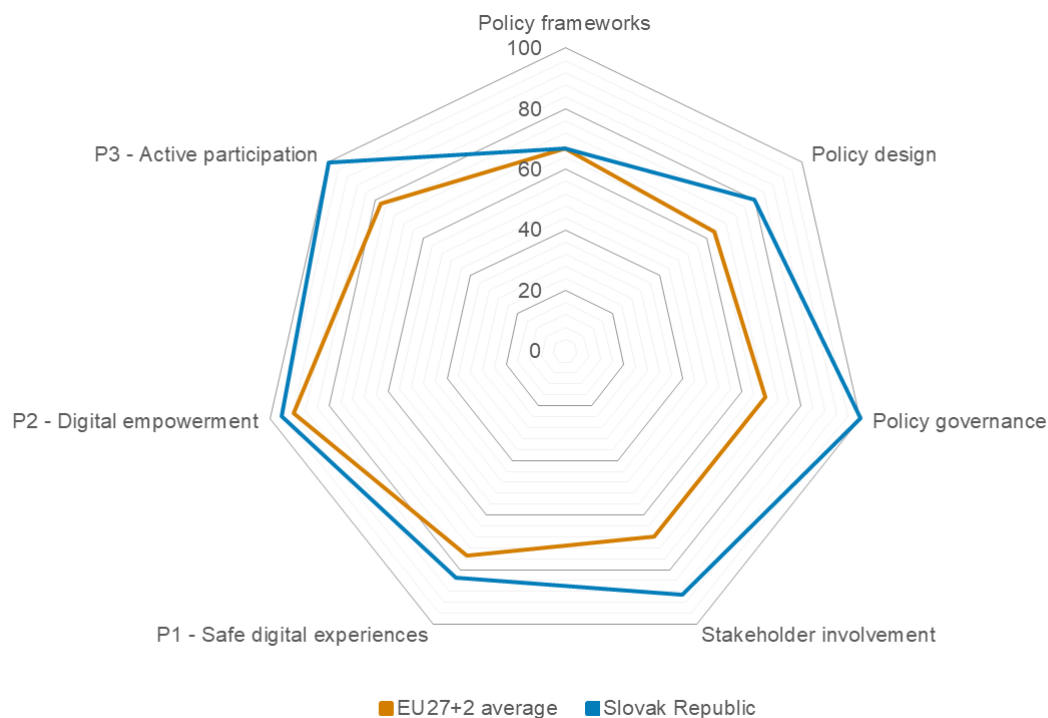


Figure 1: BIK+ index 2026: Slovakia - EU27+2 average comparison